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NURSING IN MISSION STATIONS



[This department has a two-fold purpose,—to keep nurses in this country in touch with the work of missionary nurses, and to put missionary nurses in touch with each other, for an interchange of ideas, questions, and suggestions. All nurses engaged in mission work, of every creed and country, are invited to contribute to its columns.]

MISS M. E. MACDONNELL, superintendent of the Neyoor Hospital, India, has sent a photograph, showing her field of work, to her sister, Mrs. Saville, who kindly offers it to the JOURNAL. Miss MacDonnell writes: "Come with me and peep at our wards in Southern India. First you are struck with the bareness: no chairs, pictures or lockers, only the chart over each bed, two small tables for surgical dressings, but nothing more. Spacious airy rooms with one bed between each two windows, each bed linked on to the wall at the top so that the patients may not be able to move them about. The beds are made of iron frames with rope braided across from side to side and end to end, on top of which is laid a grass mat and a striped native-made rug, red and white, a small pillow made of red muslin, and a red muslin quilt. We have a few red blankets, and red flannel jackets for pneumonia or fever cases. . . . With each patient there will be, as a rule, all the other members of the family, anywhere from two to twelve, or even more, according to the caste and position of the patient. Each family would like to keep all its household belongings, including chickens, etc., under the bed, and cook on the back verandah. We supply a separate kitchen for each self-supporting patient."

The photograph shows the Prayer Hall and Dispensary at the new Home for Leper Women at Neyoor. Dr. Davies and the medical evangelist stand in the door, Miss MacDonnell is at one side of the portrait, which is of Mrs. Pease, an Irish lady who built the leper home and supports all the patients. "The four men standing on the right are all such nice intelligent Christian men, and three were mission agents, but are now lepers. The wife and child of the man with the white beard sits in the middle of the women."

FROM Wushishi, North Nigeria, West Africa, Minnie A. Witt writes of the pleasure she has had in a subscription to the JOURNAL, sent her as a Christmas gift by a friend in this country, and adds: "You will realize how much one can appreciate news in a far land. We have

met a few English government nurses here, but otherwise we at our station are the only ones in a large district. The native women are not considered capable of taking any important responsibility, so are not considered worth an education. Naturally the natives have the same feeling toward us until they learn better. They also have a superstitious faith in charms which their priests sell to them. Many will suffer untold pain rather than come to us for treatment, but after learning how their friends and neighbors have been helped they gladly come.

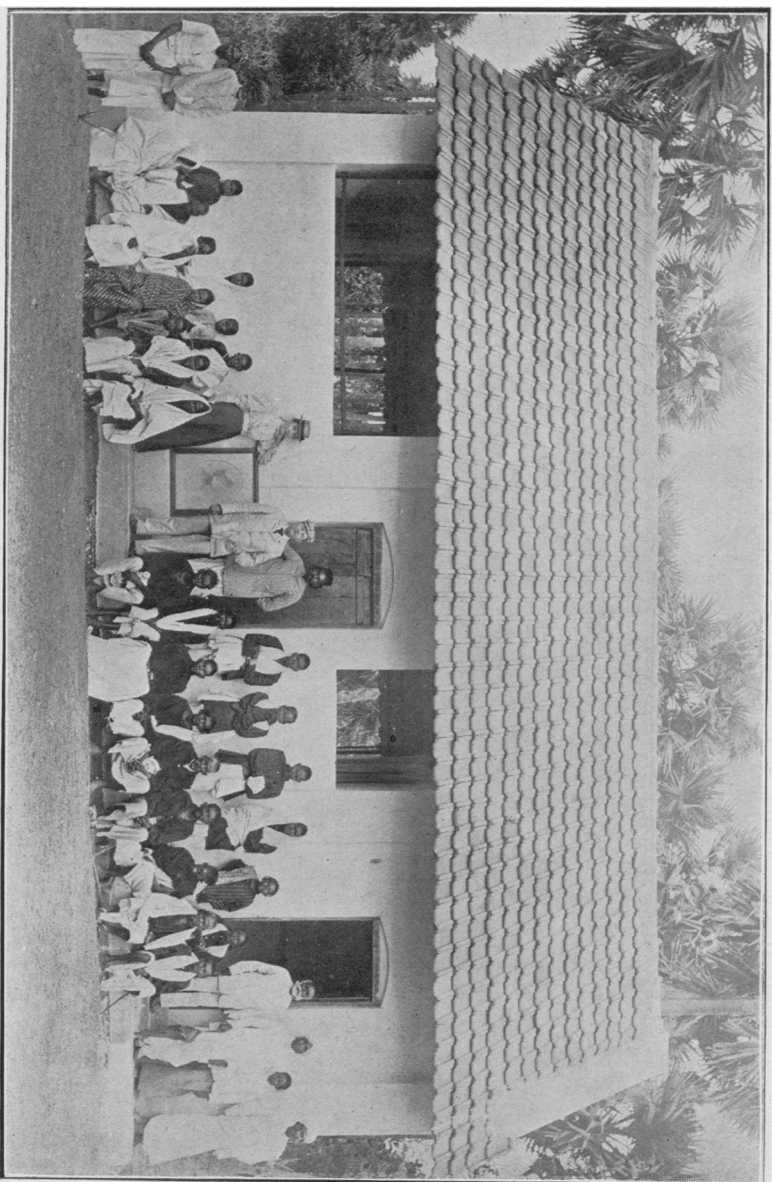
"Our new dispensary will soon be finished, when we hope to be able to do more real work. Until then, I am studying the Hausa language in order to help the patients spiritually as well as physically. I am able to carry on an ordinary conversation after eight months' study, but I find I make many mistakes. There are many things for which we can find no Hausa words, so our teachers use English or Arabic words, as we of the English tongue have appropriated many Latin, French, and other words to express our thoughts."

The Alaskan Churchman for February contains accounts of the various Christmas celebrations in that far-away land which warm the heart. A paragraph also tells of the serious illness of Mrs. Jewett (formerly Ida Thompson), a nurse, and of the long four days' journey she was obliged to make in great pain, with the thermometer 50 degrees below zero, before she reached a place where she could be operated on for appendicitis. Fortunately for her friends, and for the work she is doing there, she is reported as recovering.

The little map of Alaska which appears on the inside cover of each issue of this periodical is a great help to the reader in understanding the location of the different stations and in gaining some idea of the distances to be traversed by the workers.

THOSE of our readers who are particularly interested in work among lepers will like to read a short article on "Prevention for Children of Lepers" in *Woman's Work* for April.

MISSIONARY nurses who are at home on furlough should make a special effort to attend the Associated Alumnae meetings in New York in May. "Missionary Nursing" will have a place on the programme of Wednesday afternoon, May 19, and it would be delightful if all missionary nurses present would gather near the platform after the session to meet each other and exchange informal greetings. This session will be held in Mendelssohn Hall, 113 West 40th Street, beginning at 2 P.M.



PRAYER HALL AND DISPENSARY AT NEW HOME FOR LEPPER WOMEN, NEYOOR, INDIA.